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10/680,381	10/08/2003	Taizo Shirai	241909US6	2411

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EXAMINER
KAMAL, SHAHID

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3621	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
11/14/2008	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patentdocket@oblon.com
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-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _31 July 2008_.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-24_ is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-24_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
  Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
  Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgements

1.   Claims 1-24 are remain pending and have been examined.

2.   This Office Action is responsive to the amendment filed on July 31, 2008.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4.   Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stefik et al.

(US Patent No. 6,957,193 B2) ("Stefik") in view of Spagna et al. (US Pub. No.: 2006/0089912

A1) ("Spagna").

        Referring to claim 1, Stefik discloses the following:

    a) a communication unit (Processing Computer-1803/Fig.18) for executing communication

processing with a license storage device (license server) storing rights information serving as

usage rights information of contents (digital ticket) associated with a user of the information

processing device, and communication processing with a contents distribution server (server-

1803/Fig.18) (C7, L1-9, L20-28, C26, L17-29 –the server computer will be receiving and

processing access requests to digital works);

b) an encryption processing unit (server computer-1803/Fig.18) for executing encryption

(encrypted digital ticket) processing including authentication (authorize digital work, Table-1)

processing in said communication processing (C13, L4-12, C15, Table 1, 2(1-2), C26, L1-11 –

digital works are minimally encrypted, including ones on removal storage); and

c) a control unit (Operating System-1301) for executing processing control for inputting

rights information corresponding to contents (digital ticket) from said license storage device

(license server), via said communication unit (server computer-1803/Fig.18), transmitting said

input rights information to said contents distribution server (Server-1803/Fig.18), and receiving

contents set corresponding to said transmission rights information from said contents distribution

server (client repository) and playing or using said contents (C3, L53-67, C51, L24-59 –

receiving a request to use a digital work in accordance with usage rights associated with the

digital work, the usage rights specifying a manner of use and an access specification, granting

the request and permitting exercise of the manner of use specified in the usage right associated

with the digital work).

Stefik does not expressly disclose license storage device store the licensing and usage rights.

Spagna discloses license storage device (license database 197) store the licensing and usage

rights (see ¶¶ 0285, 0321, 0821, 0926, 0930).

Therefore, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of

ordinary skill in the art to have modified of Stefik for a repository with security class and method

for use thereof with the features of Spagna for a system and method of updating usage conditions

in lieu of download digital rights management protected content in order provide these goals, a

need exists for digital content providers to use an electronic distribution model to make digital

content available to a wide range of users and businesses while ensuring protection and metering of digital assets.

Referring to claim 2, Stefik further discloses wherein said encryption processing unit has a configuration for executing verification processing for a tampering verification value attached to contents-corresponding rights information input from said license storage device (C3, L53-67, C51, L24-59 –receiving a request to use a digital work in accordance with usage rights associated with the digital work, the usage rights specifying a manner of use and an access specification, granting the request and permitting exercise of the manner of use specified in the usage right associated with the digital work).

Referring to claim 3, Stefik further discloses wherein said encryption processing unit executes mutual authentication with said license storage device (C13, L4-12, C15, Table2(1-2), C16, L23-35, C26, L1-11 –stored file are minimally encrypted, including ones on removal storage); and wherein said control unit has a configuration for executing input processing of contents-corresponding rights information input from said license storage device via said communication unit, with the establishment of said mutual verification as a precondition thereof (C3, L53-67, C5, L49-60, C8, L35-47, C13, L19-39, C43, L47-59, C51, L24-59 –receiving a request to use a digital work in accordance with usage rights associated with the digital work, the usage rights specifying a manner of use and an access specification, granting the request and permitting exercise of the manner of use specified in the usage right associated with the digital work).

Referring to claim 4, Stefik further discloses wherein said encryption processing unit has

a configuration for executing mutual authentication and key-sharing processing with said license

storage device, and for executing verification processing for a tampering verification value

attached to contents-corresponding rights information input from said license storage device via

said communication unit, applying a key generated in said key-sharing processing (C7, L1-9,

L20-28, C22, L1-9, C25, L50-63, C26, L17-29 –the repository will be receiving and processing

access requests to digital works. When the requester mode, the repository will be initiating

requests to access digital works).

Referring to claim 5, Stefik further discloses wherein said rights information stores

download-type information containing permit/forbid information relating to cache processing

permission of distribution contents from said contents distribution server (Fig.1(105,106,107) –

access may be granted or denied); and wherein said control unit is of a configuration for deciding

permission/forbidding of cache processing of download contents following said download type

information (Fig.1(105,106,107) –access may be granted or denied).

Referring to claim 6, Stefik further discloses wherein said encryption processing unit has

a configuration for executing mutual authentication and key-sharing processing with said

contents distribution server, and for executing verification processing for a tampering

verification value attached to a contents file from said contents distribution server via said

communication unit, applying a key generated in said key-sharing processing (C7, L1-9, L20-28,

C22, L1-9, C25, L50-63, C26, L17-29 –the repository will be receiving and processing access

requests to digital works. When the requester mode, the repository will be initiating requests to

access digital works).

Referring to claim 7, Stefik discloses wherein said encryption processing unit has a

configuration for executing mutual authentication and key-sharing processing with said contents

distribution server, and for executing decryption of an encrypted contents encryption processing

key attached to a contents file from said contents distribution server via said communication unit,

applying a key generated in said key-sharing processing (C7, L1-9, L20-28, C22, L1-9, C25,

L50-63, C26, L17-29 –the repository will be receiving and processing access requests to digital

works. When the requester mode, the repository will be initiating requests to access digital

works).

Referring to claim 8, Stefik further discloses wherein header information of a contents

file received from said contents distribution server contains RHD check mode information

setting whether or not to take connection with said license storage device at the time of playing

contents as a precondition thereof (C7, L1-9, L20-28, C22, L1-9, C25, L50-63, C26, L17-29 –the

repository will be receiving and processing access requests to digital works. When the requester

mode, the repository will be initiating requests to access digital works); and wherein said

encryption processing unit executes mutual authentication processing with said license storage

device for contents playing processing wherein said RHD check mode information takes

connection with said license storage device at the time of playing contents as a precondition

thereof (C13, L4-12, C15, Table2(1-2), C16, L23-35, C26, L1-11 –stored file are minimally

encrypted, including ones on removal storage); and wherein said control unit performs contents

playing processing with establishment of said authentication as a precondition thereof (C3, L53-

67, C51, L24-59 –receiving a request to use a digital work in accordance with usage rights

associated with the digital work, the usage rights specifying a manner of use and an access

specification, granting the request and permitting exercise of the manner of use specified in the

usage right associated with the digital work).

    <u>Referring to claim 9</u>, Stefik further discloses wherein header information of a contents

file received from said contents distribution server contains output control information of

contents (C3, L53-67, C5, L49-60, C8, L35-47, C13, L19-39, C43, L47-59, C51, L24-59 –

receiving a request to use a digital work in accordance with usage rights associated with the

digital work, the usage rights specifying a manner of use and an access specification, granting

the request and permitting exercise of the manner of use specified in the usage right associated

with the digital work); and wherein said control unit executes output control of contents

following said output control information (C3, L53-67, C5, L49-60, C8, L35-47, C13, L19-39,

C43, L47-59, C51, Claim 1 –receiving a request to use a digital work in accordance with usage

rights associated with the digital work, the usage rights specifying a manner of use and an access

specification, granting the request and permitting exercise of the manner of use specified in the

usage right associated with the digital work).

Referring to claim 10, Stefik further discloses wherein said rights information contains

contents distribution server information or index server information of a server capable of

providing contents corresponding to said rights information (C3, L53-67, C5, L49-60, C8, L35-

47, C13, L19-39, C43, L47-59, C51, Claim 1 –receiving a request to use a digital work in

accordance with usage rights associated with the digital work, the usage rights specifying a

manner of use and an access specification, granting the request and permitting exercise of the

manner of use specified in the usage right associated with the digital work); and wherein said

control unit is of a configuration for executing processing for deciding a connection destination

following said contents distribution server information or index server information (C3, L53-67,

C5, L49-60, C8, L35-47, C13, L19-39, C43, L47-59, C51, Claim 1 –receiving a request to use a

digital work in accordance with usage rights associated with the digital work, the usage rights

specifying a manner of use and an access specification, granting the request and permitting

exercise of the manner of use specified in the usage right associated with the digital work).

Referring to claim 11, Stefik further discloses wherein said control unit is of a

configuration for executing processing for transmitting, to a contents distribution server

providing contents, specs information including data format information of data formats playable

at the information processing device serving as a contents using device, along with said rights

information (C3, L53-67, C5, L49-60, C8, L35-47, C13, L19-39, C43, L47-59, C51, Claim 1 –

receiving a request to use a digital work in accordance with usage rights associated with the

digital work, the usage rights specifying a manner of use and an access specification, granting

the request and permitting exercise of the manner of use specified in the usage right associated

with the digital work).

Referring to claim 12, Stefik discloses the following:

a) a storage unit (server computer-1803/Fig.18) for storing said use rights information

associated with a user of the information processing device (C7, L1-9, L20-28, C22, L1-9, C25,

L50-63, C26, L17-29 –the repository will be receiving and processing access requests to digital

works);

b) a communication unit (server computer-1803/Fig.18) for executing communication

processing with a contents using device for playing or using contents (C7, L1-9, L20-28, C22,

L1-9, C25, L50-63, C26, L17-29 –the computer will be receiving and processing access requests

to digital works);

c) an encryption processing unit (server computer-1803/Fig.18) for executing encryption

(encrypted digital work) processing including authentication (authorize digital work, table-1)

processing in said communication processing via said communication unit (C13, L4-12, C15,

Table2(1-2), C16, L23-35, C26, L1-11 –digital works are minimally encrypted, including ones

on removal storage); and

d) a control unit for executing output processing of contents-corresponding rights

information via said communication unit with regard to said contents using device, with

establishment of mutual authentication with said contents using device as a precondition thereof

(C3, L53-67, C5, L49-60, C8, L35-47, C13, L19-39, C43, L47-59, C51, L24-59 –receiving a

request to use a digital work in accordance with usage rights associated with the digital work, the

usage rights specifying a manner of use and an access specification, granting the request and

permitting exercise of the manner of use specified in the usage right associated with the digital

work).

Stefik does not expressly disclose license storage device store the licensing and usage rights.

Spagna discloses license storage device (license database 197) store the licensing and usage

rights (see ¶¶ 0285, 0321, 0821, 0926, 0930).

Therefore, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of

ordinary skill in the art to have modified of Stefik for a repository with security class and method

for use thereof with the features of Spagna for a system and method of updating usage conditions

in lieu of download digital rights management protected content in order provide these goals, a

need exists for digital content providers to use an electronic distribution model to make digital

content available to a wide range of users and businesses while ensuring protection and metering

of digital assets.

Referring to claim 13, Stefik further discloses wherein said encryption processing unit

has a configuration for executing mutual authentication and key-sharing processing with said

contents using device, and for executing processing for setting a tampering verification value to

rights information to be output to said contents using device, applying a key generated in said

key-sharing processing (C7, L1-9, L20-28, C22, L1-9, C25, L50-63, C26, L17-29 –the repository

will be receiving and processing access requests to digital works. When the requester mode, the

repository will be initiating requests to access digital works).

Referring to claim 14, Stefik further discloses wherein said encryption processing unit executes mutual authentication with a license purchasing device which receives rights information from a license server via a network (C13, L4-12, C15, Table2(1-2), C16, L23-35, C26, L1-11 –stored file are minimally encrypted, including ones on removal storage); and wherein said control unit executes input processing of contents-corresponding rights information via said communication unit, with establishment of said mutual authentication as a precondition thereof (C3, L53-67, C5, L49-60, C8, L35-47, C13, L19-39, C43, L47-59, C51, Claim 1 – receiving a request to use a digital work in accordance with usage rights associated with the digital work, the usage rights specifying a manner of use and an access specification, granting the request and permitting exercise of the manner of use specified in the usage right associated with the digital work).

Referring to claim 15, Stefik further discloses wherein said encryption processing unit has a configuration for executing mutual authentication and key-sharing processing with said license purchasing device, and for executing verification processing for a tampering verification value attached to contents-corresponding rights information input from said license purchasing device via said communication unit, applying a key generated in said key-sharing processing (C7, L1-9, L20-28, C22, L1-9, C25, L50-63, C26, L17-29 –the repository will be receiving and processing access requests to digital works. When the requester mode, the repository will be initiating requests to access digital works).

Referring to claim 16, Stefik discloses the following:

a) a communication unit (processing computer-1803/Fig.18) for receiving a contents (digital

work) use request from a contents using device, and transmitting the contents (digital work) (C7,

L1-9, L20-28, C22, L1-9, C25, L50-63, C26, L17-29 –the computer will be receiving and

processing access requests to digital works. When the requester mode, the repository will be

initiating requests to access digital works);

b) an encryption unit (server computer-1803/Fig.18) for executing encryption processing

including legitimacy verification processing of contents-corresponding rights information

received from said contents using device via said communication unit (C13, L4-12, C15,

Table2(1-2), C16, L23-35, C26, L1-11 –digital work are minimally encrypted, including ones on

removal storage); and

c) control unit (operating system-1301) for executing output processing of a contents file via

said communication unit (server computer-1803/Fig.18) to said contents using device, with

establishment of verification of said rights information as a precondition thereof (C3, L53-67,

C5, L49-60, C8, L35-47, C13, L19-39, C43, L47-59, C51, L24-59 –receiving a request to use a

digital work in accordance with usage rights associated with the digital work, the usage rights

specifying a manner of use and an access specification, granting the request and permitting

exercise of the manner of use specified in the usage right associated with the digital work).

Stefik does not expressly disclose license storage device store the licensing and usage rights.

Spagna discloses license storage device (license database 197) store the licensing and usage

rights (see ¶¶ 0285, 0321, 0821, 0926, 0930).

Therefore, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of

ordinary skill in the art to have modified of Stefik for a repository with security class and method

for use thereof with the features of Spagna for a system and method of updating usage conditions

in lieu of download digital rights management protected content in order provide these goals, a

need exists for digital content providers to use an electronic distribution model to make digital

content available to a wide range of users and businesses while ensuring protection and metering

of digital assets.

Referring to claim 17, Stefik further discloses wherein said rights information contains a

valid information code serving as an identification code of validity management information of

said rights information (C13, L4-12, C15, Table2(1-2), C16, L23-35, C26, L1-11 –stored file are

minimally encrypted, including ones on removal storage); and wherein said control unit makes

reference to a validity management table correlating validity information with said valid

information code, and executes transmission processing of a contents file, with confirmation of

the validity of the contents-corresponding rights information received from said contents using

device as a precondition thereof (C3, L53-67, C5, L49-60, C8, L35-47, C13, L19-39, C43, L47-

59, C51, Claim 1 –receiving a request to use a digital work in accordance with usage rights

associated with the digital work, the usage rights specifying a manner of use and an access

specification, granting the request and permitting exercise of the manner of use specified in the

usage right associated with the digital work).

Referring to claim 18, Stefik further discloses wherein said encryption processing unit

has a configuration for executing mutual authentication and key-sharing processing with said

contents using device, and for executing processing for attaching a tampering verification value

to said contents file being transmitted, applying a key generated in said key-sharing processing

(C7, L1-9, L20-28, C22, L1-9, C25, L50-63, C26, L17-29 –the repository will be receiving and

processing access requests to digital works. When the requester mode, the repository will be

initiating requests to access digital works).

    Referring to claim 19, Stefik further discloses wherein said control unit executes

processing for storing, in header information of a contents file to be transmitted to said contents

using device, RHD check mode information setting whether or not to take connection with said

license storage device at the time of playing contents as a precondition thereof (C3, L53-67, C5,

L49-60, C8, L35-47, C13, L19-39, C43, L47-59, C51, Claim 1 –receiving a request to use a

digital work in accordance with usage rights associated with the digital work, the usage rights

specifying a manner of use and an access specification, granting the request and permitting

exercise of the manner of use specified in the usage right associated with the digital work).

    Referring to claim 20, Stefik further discloses wherein said encryption processing unit

has a configuration for executing mutual authentication and key-sharing processing with said

contents using device, and for executing encryption of a contents encryption processing key to be

stored in a contents file, applying a key generated in said key-sharing processing (C7, L1-9, L20-

28, C22, L1-9, C25, L50-63, C26, L17-29 –the repository will be receiving and processing

access requests to digital works. When the requester mode, the repository will be initiating

requests to access digital works).

Referring to claim 21, Stefik discloses the following:

a) a communication unit (processing computer-1803/Fig.18) for executing communication

processing with a requesting terminal requesting said rights information (C7, L1-9, L20-28, C26,

L17-29 –the processing computer will be receiving and processing access requests to digital

works. When the requester mode, the repository will be initiating requests to access digital

works);

b) an encryption unit (processing computer-1803/Fig.18) for executing encryption

processing including signature generating processing with regard to rights information to be

transmitted via said communication unit (C13, L4-12, C15, Table2(1-2), C16, L23-35, C26, L1-

11 –digital works are minimally encrypted, including ones on removal storage); and

c) a control unit (operating system-1301) for generating rights information storing an

identifier of a license storage device (license server) serving as a storage device (processing

computer) for said rights information, said rights information being associated with a user of the

license storage device, and executing output processing of said rights information, with

establishment of said mutual authentication (authorize digital work, table-1) with said requesting

terminal as a precondition thereof (C3, L53-67, C51, L24-59 –receiving a request to use a digital

work in accordance with usage rights associated with the digital work, the usage rights

specifying a manner of use and an access specification, granting the request and permitting

exercise of the manner of use specified in the usage right associated with the digital work).

Stefik does not expressly disclose license storage device store the licensing and usage rights.

Spagna discloses license storage device (license database 197) store the licensing and usage

rights (see ¶¶ 0285, 0321, 0821, 0926, 0930).

Therefore, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of

ordinary skill in the art to have modified of Stefik for a repository with security class and method

for use thereof with the features of Spagna for a system and method of updating usage conditions

in lieu of download digital rights management protected content in order provide these goals, a

need exists for digital content providers to use an electronic distribution model to make digital

content available to a wide range of users and businesses while ensuring protection and metering

of digital assets.

        Referring to claim 22, Stefik further discloses wherein said encryption processing unit

has a configuration for executing mutual authentication and key-sharing processing with said

requesting terminal, and for executing processing for setting a tampering verification value to

rights information to be output to said requesting terminal, applying a key generated in said key-

sharing processing (C7, L1-9, L20-28, C22, L1-9, C25, L50-63, C26, L17-29 –the repository

will be receiving and processing access requests to digital works. When the requester mode, the

repository will be initiating requests to access digital works).

        Referring to claim 23, Stefik further discloses wherein said control unit executes

processing for generating and transmitting rights information storing identification information

of a contents distribution server or index server which distributes contents corresponding to said

rights information (C3, L53-67, C5, L49-60, C8, L35-47, C13, L19-39, C43, L47-59, C51, Claim

1 –receiving a request to use a digital work in accordance with usage rights associated with the

digital work, the usage rights specifying a manner of use and an access specification, granting

the request and permitting exercise of the manner of use specified in the usage right associated

with the digital work).

Referring to claim 24, Stefik further discloses wherein said control unit generates rights

information storing download type information containing permit/forbid information relating to

cache processing permission of distribution contents (Fig.1(105,106,107) –access may be

granted or denied).

Examiner's Note:

5.   The Examiner has pointed out particular references contained in the prior art of record

within the body of this action for the convenience of the Applicant. Although the specified

citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations

within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply. Applicant, in preparing the

response, should consider fully the entire reference as potentially teaching all or part of the

claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by

the Examiner.

Response to Arguments

6.   Applicant's arguments filed on July 31, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not

persuasive.

7.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-24 have been considered but are moot in

view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8.   THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time

policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS

from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of

the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the

THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on

the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be

calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory

period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner

should be directed to Shahid Kamal whose telephone number is (571) 270-3272. The examiner

can normally be reached on MONDAY through THURSDAY between the hours of 8:30 AM

and 7 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor,

Andrew J. Fischer can be reached on (571) 272-6779. The fax phone number for the organization

where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300 for Regular/After Final Actions

and 571-273-6714 for Non-Official/Draft.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

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